



# VIRTUS COLLEGE

The British Sixth Form

## — General Information —





*Education that lasts a lifetime*



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# 01

## Virtus College, our story

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# Head's Welcome

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## Head's Welcome

### Welcome to Virtus College, The British Sixth Form in Madrid.

*Unashamedly ambitious, at Virtus College, we specialise in providing a Sixth Form journey that is bespoke to each student. Our unique educational model is holistic, personalised, inspiring and aimed at preparing our pupils for life beyond the Virtus College gates. With a provision underpinned by our core values of Discipline, Resilience, Integrity, Vision and Enthusiasm, we nurture good character; foster students who are able to think critically, work independently, and contribute positively to the wider community.*

*Our diverse A-Level offer, ambitious target grades, and a curriculum which matches each individual's profile and career aspirations, means we create a unique Sixth Form experience for each individual. This, coupled with weekly mentoring meetings, and a tailored Co-Curricular Programme, Sixth Form life at Virtus College is distinctive, lively and fulfilling.*

*Our school is characterised by our holistic person-centred approach as we closely guide our students throughout their two most important academic years. By offering small class sizes and providing excellent teaching, we ensure they succeed at each stage of their education and go on to secure fantastic opportunities at top-tier universities. Our teachers get to know our students really well and are able to both support and challenge them. Being a Sixth Form College, we put a strong emphasis on every aspect that revolves around successful university applications. For example, with our Engineering, Business, Medicine and Oxbridge pathways; each student's ambitions are supported and nurtured. In this sense, our Co-Curricular Programme plays a vital role in enabling students' development of essential 21st Century skills.*

*What makes us unique is also the warm atmosphere, the relationships and the genuine care we offer our students. Virtus College is a community where we are so much more than exam results. Our teaching staff go the extra mile for our students with lunch time classes for topics they feel unsure of, to stretch and challenge classes for the more able students. As a Sixth Form College we also see it as a duty to shape well rounded global citizens of the future. Each student is expected to volunteer; to give back to their community, to be there for others because manners and kindness cost nothing, yet help us create the world we want to live in.*

*I warmly invite you to come and visit.*

Kind regards,  
Sandra Radford  
Headteacher

# History and Governance

Building a personalised and innovative education since 2016.

## An independent school

Virtus College was born in **2016** to offer an innovative and personalised education that could fulfil an educational need increasingly demanded by parents who choose a **British education**.

**Virtus College is a fully independent British School, not governed by an external organisation**, and one of the few schools with this status remaining in Spain. We believe that the autonomy that such a status provides is imperative in ensuring the success of our educational model and in making sure that we do not compromise our standards.

When the founders came together after finishing their studies at **Oxford University** and **Imperial College London**, they shared the vision of **creating a Sixth Form College** with an educational model where excellence prevails in all aspects, training students for the challenges of the future. Since then, the trust of parents and students has allowed Virtus College to grow and establish itself. With the new facilities in the heart of **La Moraleja**, Virtus College continues to solidify its identity as a British school **specialised exclusively in the A-Level stage**.

## Chartered by The Schools Trust

While we are fully independent, we do recognise the benefits of our chartered relationship with the Schools Trust, which has proven to be an ideal source of added value over the years. The Trust is a UK registered organisation that supports schools worldwide. Together, we pursue a **common vision of excellence**, fuelled by the proposition that **every student should be inspired to achieve extraordinary success**. This is realised by instilling in them a love for learning, a relentless pursuit of ambitious goals and a respect for core values in line with the very best of our British educational heritage.



The Virtus College board of advisors is composed of experts from different backgrounds in the educational sector and a combined experience of over 50 years founding and operating top international schools. Their role is to help in the continuous development of the school's policies and its commitment to best standards, provide advice for improvement and contribute to the innovative educational vision of Virtus College.





# School Values

Discipline, Resilience, Integrity,  
Vision, Enthusiasm.

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At Virtus College, we embrace a set of core values that we refer to as **DRIVE: Discipline, Resilience, Integrity, Vision, and Enthusiasm**. These values serve as guiding principles which shape our educational approach and foster a positive and empowering learning environment.

**Discipline:** We believe in the importance of discipline as a fundamental element of personal growth and success. We encourage our students to cultivate self-discipline in their studies, time management, and behaviour, instilling habits that promote responsibility and accountability.

**Resilience:** We recognise that challenges and setbacks are a natural part of the learning journey. We empower our students to develop resilience, teaching them how to bounce back from adversity, persevere through difficulties, and embrace failure as an opportunity for growth. By cultivating resilience, our students are equipped with the strength and determination to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

**Integrity:** We uphold the highest standards of integrity, promoting honesty, fairness, and ethical behaviour among our students. We emphasise the importance of acting with integrity in their academic pursuits, interactions with peers and teachers, and in their broader lives. Integrity forms the foundation for building trust, fostering a culture of respect and honour within our school community.

**Vision:** We inspire our students to think beyond the present and embrace a visionary mindset. We encourage them to dream big, set ambitious goals, and think creatively and innovatively. By nurturing a visionary mindset, we empower our students to become forward-thinkers, problem solvers, and leaders who can make a positive impact on the world.

**Enthusiasm:** We believe that enthusiasm is a catalyst for engagement and meaningful learning. We strive to create a vibrant and joyful atmosphere where students are excited about their education, curious to explore new ideas, and eager to participate in various activities. We encourage a genuine passion for learning and celebrate the enthusiasm that drives our students to excel.

These core values of **DRIVE** shape our educational philosophy, guide our interactions, and inspire our students to become responsible, resilient, and visionary individuals who approach life with integrity and enthusiasm.

# Our Teachers

Our success is based on teachers with unique qualities and a profound commitment to their students.

## Experience, vocation and unique qualities

The success of Virtus College lies in having **the best teachers** who possess the qualities necessary to make our educational model a reality. As a result of a meticulous hiring process, we are fortunate to build a team whose experience and dedication to their fields reflect our values as an institution. They are the indispensable assets of our **Gate-to-Gate** Model and assume the weekly responsibility of monitoring each student to ensure the goals set in the Roadmap are continually met.

Our **teaching body** provides students with a strong set of role models as they have been educated amongst the **top universities** in the world. London School of Economics, University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge, University of Nottingham or University of Oxford are some examples of renowned institutions that our teaching staff are proud to call their alma mater, with all of them having completed teaching qualifications in the UK.



In addition to being experts in their **A-Level subjects**, our teachers have specific talents that they have developed personally over time. Amidst our team are enthusiasts in the world of finance, programming and psychology among others. We capitalise on their passions in **Co-Curricular Options**, which are designed and developed by the teachers themselves so that our students discover new interests, deepen their knowledge of the field they have chosen and acquire skills and experiences with which to impress universities in their application.

Our teachers inspire and pass on to their students the love for life-long learning while imparting the values of consistent effort, self-confidence and integrity. Working in **small groups** promotes a trusting relationship with students which is integral to academic progress.

# The British Curriculum

The **British curriculum** (English National Curriculum), widely known as the A-Level in their final years, is a renowned education system with the **greatest international recognition** and with the largest number of affiliated schools in the world. Its popularity and reputation remain unquestionable due to the high standards of pedagogical approaches and a rigorous subject content. Universities value the reliability of the knowledge that students learn and the demand and **rigour of the A-Level programme** are a seal of guarantee and prestige. In addition, the practicality, possibility of specialisation and flexibility of the British curriculum offer an ideal context for our educational model.



## Our aims

1. To offer a **top quality education** in which students develop useful skills that will allow them to **achieve excellence in their subjects** and their university interests and to become competent 21st-century professionals.
2. To foster the **individuality and independence** of each student, the responsible use of freedom and the best habits for the pursuit of truth and excellence in learning.
3. To promote **critical thinking, oral expression, performance under pressure, intellectual curiosity and a global outlook** to face the challenges of the future.
4. To cultivate a small **community** in which the intimacy and closeness, the **support** and the prominence of each student in the community play a key role in their physical, psychological and emotional development.
5. To promote **daily effort, enthusiasm and self-confidence** as the keys to personal success, and tolerance and integrity as essential values to succeed in society.

# 02

## British Education, Redefined

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# Why Us?

British education, redefined.

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## 1 | Unique Educational Approach

At Virtus College, we offer a holistic educational programme **tailored to each student**, with a one-of-a-kind support for university entry and a focus on 21st-century skills.

We begin when you walk through our gates; our early assessment approach prepares a bespoke profile and a roadmap for each of our students before the academic year starts to map out their university strategy. This is known as the Gate-to-Gate model.

Our educational programme offers a core of rigorous **British A-Levels**, and goes beyond the classroom; offering students university guidance that matches their aspirations.

We provide academic support at every stage of their 2-year-programme on a weekly individual basis.

The personalised roadmap we design with our students is adapted to fit each student's development and any new **academic, personal or university-related goals** that may arise.

## 2 | A flexible and holistic curriculum

We adopt a **modular approach** with International A-Levels, giving students the chance to break down the examination process into **January and June examinations, annually**.

This ensures that they are in the best position to achieve outstanding grades as each examination moment cumulatively adds to their final grades. Our curriculum is designed to give our students limitless opportunities for holistic development with an enhanced emphasis on the performing arts, oratorical and technological skills built on the maturity and curiosity shown by students in their last two years of school.

## 3 | Positive learning environment

At Virtus College, we pride ourselves on offering a British education with small class sizes; an **average of 5 per class** where no student is just a number.

In addition, our facilities have an atmosphere akin to university, **facilitating the bridge between Sixth Form and university**; preparing our students for the transition.

Our nurturing environment is characterised by a **1:4 staff-student ratio** that guarantees a unique pastoral care by Virtus College staff who are inspiring teachers and adept at creating warm relationships and positive rapport with the students.

This transcends to a positive learning environment that fosters responsibility, and independence.



#### 4 | We offer a truly personalised approach to education

We work in classes with an **average of 5 students per class**, with **40 students per year group** and this enables us to get to know our students really well.

We design a **curriculum roadmap** based on each student's profile that aligns our educational programme with the interests and strengths of each student and with their career aspirations at the forefront of the design.

Our **Gate-to-Gate Model** therefore ensures a one-of-a-kind approach for the strategy, support and enrichment for university preparation.

Our **Clubs & Societies**, organised by our students, nurture the burgeoning interests that may emerge during the year while developing those already existing.

Our **Mentoring Programme** offers weekly individual support at every stage of the academic year.

The results?

A **tailored education** for each individual, each student.

#### 5 | We are defined by innovation

The **flexibility of our educational programme** is unique when it comes to adapting to the needs of our students, from the moment they enter Virtus College until they graduate.

The role of our teachers transcends the academic, cultivating closer and more meaningful relationships with the students, thanks to our **small groups** and their additional role as **mentors**.

Our **educational environment** features the **best tools** from the education sector and an innovative pedagogy based on active learning with key components of Assessment, Challenge and Engagement in each lesson..

We provide our students with proactive pastoral care based on an in-depth knowledge of their personalities through constant monitoring and professional **psycho-pedagogical support**.

# Personalised Education

Tailored learning and small groups provide the foundations for students to maximise their academic potential, gain confidence in their learning and develop tools that will allow them to cope with their future personal challenges.

Our students enjoy a wide range of resources to maximise their potential, gain confidence in their learning and develop tools that will allow them to cope with their future personal challenges.



## Personalisation extends to every aspect

At Virtus College, personalisation is woven into every aspect of our approach. Our distinctive mentoring programme places the individual student's needs and goals at the forefront, ensuring a personalised approach that goes beyond the conventional. We provide **extensive one-on-one time**, fostering a supportive environment where specific challenges are addressed with precision. In the academic realm, our curriculum is a dynamic entity that adapts seamlessly to the diverse needs of our students. Carefully crafted for multiple career pathways, it serves as a flexible framework that caters to individual aspirations.

Virtus College prides itself on creating a distinctive learning environment that combines **personalised support** and a **dynamic curriculum** tailored to meet the unique needs of each student.

# University; a personal journey

At Virtus College, we prioritise **individualised support** to navigate the journey from **school to university**. Our **one-to-one career advice** sessions guide students in identifying strengths and career aspirations, also providing support throughout every stage of the application processes. **Events, workshops** and **opportunities** provide hands-on experience across diverse fields, enhancing practical skills. Committed to building competitive co-curricular profiles, we encourage students to participate in clubs and community initiatives aligning with their goals.

Specific careers support and workshops are designed to meet the needs of particular careers pathways; from Medicine careers workshops to preparation for University Engineering entry tests and the bespoke Oxbridge programme - we tailor the university preparation to each student's aspirations.

## Tailored student support

Our commitment to personalised education is reflected in our tailored support mechanisms. Subject **clinics** provide **subject-specific extra lessons**, addressing individual challenges and improving areas of weakness which differs from student to student . **Regular tests** serve as checkpoints, helps to develop exam technique without being exhausting and also serve to direct students to targeted individual Clinics if deemed beneficial.

**Individualised Educational Programmes (IEPs)** are crafted to suit unique learning styles and academic objectives. Supported by our dedicated **Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)**, we ensure that every student receives specialised assistance, fostering an inclusive and conducive learning environment







# Innovative Spirit

Our students and teachers benefit from our innovative spirit and our capacity of adaptation to meet the demands and challenges of 21st-century education.



## At the forefront of innovation

In the carefully designed and nurtured environment of Virtus College, innovation extends beyond academics to shape a flexible educational program that seamlessly adapts to students' evolving needs from enrollment to graduation. Here, our teachers play a pivotal role, transcending traditional academic boundaries to assume dual roles as mentors within our small groups, fostering closer and more **meaningful relationships** with students. This environment thrives on wide-ranging, **proactive pastoral care**, characterised by an in-depth understanding of students' personalities and continuous monitoring through our Mentoring Programme. Complementing this, our **extensive Co-Curricular Programme** actively connects students with future sectors and careers, not only broadening their horizons but also developing practical skills essential for success. Our innovative environment therefore ensures students are equipped with the tools they need for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

# Learning environment and digital education

An innovative learning strategy supported by state-of-the-art facilities and thorough training of our teachers.

## Educational Environment

Our educational environment draws upon the educational benefits of the **best technological** tools in the market, creating a context that maximises the creativity of teachers and the transmission of knowledge to our students.

Teachers and students work with the best digital tools. Every student receives the latest **iPad and accessories**. The iPad and its accessories work as a computer, tablet, book, camera, notepad, calendar, and folder – all in one. Teaching and learning is designed to maximise the advantages of this technology with homework being set, submitted and marked online, using **Google Classroom**.

Our teachers take advantage of this digital environment in further ways: through specific apps that help visualise concepts or by fostering competitiveness through interactive tests.

Digital resources on the Internet help students link theoretical concepts with reality and provide a basis prior to the lesson so that they can focus on evaluation, analysis and discussion.

For students, this represents a qualitative leap in their ability to organise themselves, take notes and use digital resources to investigate and present information.

## Data and experience-based innovation

Pedagogy, curriculum design and technological integration in the classroom constantly evolve at Virtus College. We have spent years perfecting a **methodology based on active learning through continuous evaluation of teaching practices**. We measure the **impact of the learning strategies** we implement and, in parallel to conducting a profuse investigation of the practices of the best educational institutions.

## Continuous Professional Development

Teachers receive thorough training in our methodology and continuous support to improve their teaching. Through **CPD (Continuous Professional Development)**, we connect our teachers with the **best practices**, the resources to maximise their creativity in the educational environment and the opportunities for their personal development as a teacher.



# 03

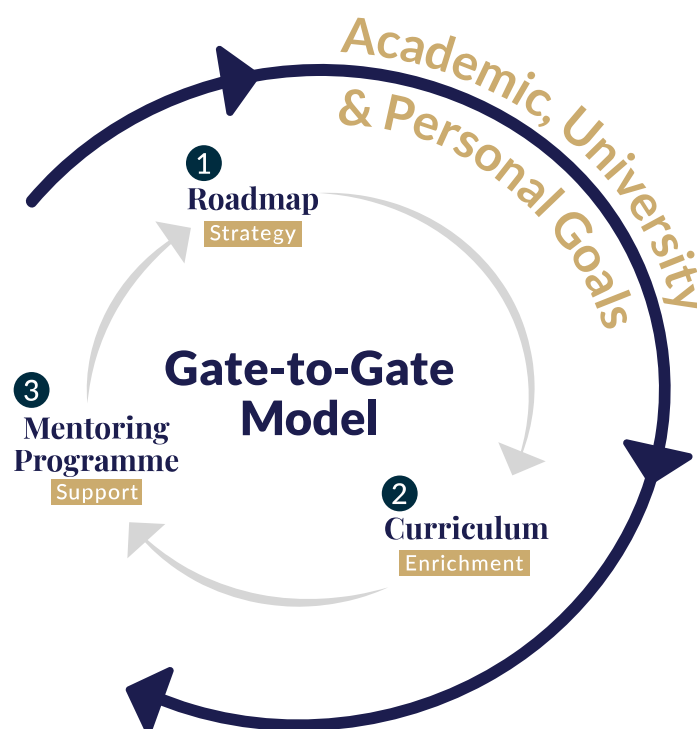
Unrivalled  
preparation  
for university

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# Our Gate-to-Gate Model

An unparalleled strategy, enrichment and support for every student.



**1** We pride ourselves on getting to know every student to the best of our ability. This allows us to establish a **personalised Roadmap**, which builds on their interests, career aspirations and curriculum demands.

**2** Our **curriculum** is designed to meet the demands of **21st century challenges**, extending beyond the classroom and incorporating co-curricular options that allow students to build a **competitive profile** and develop the necessary skills to be successful in their future careers.

**3** Our **Mentoring Programme**, consisting of **weekly 1-on-1 support**, is the key in providing academic, personal and careers support, monitoring the roadmap and providing unique guidance based on the students needs and priorities.

# Academic, university and personal Goals

## Understanding Virtus College via the goals of the Gate-to-Gate Model.

The **Vocational Profile** that we carry out for each student, added to their personal and academic interests, allows us to design a **Roadmap for their school stage in Virtus College** aimed at development on three fronts: **academic, university and personal**.

The Roadmap determines to a large extent the aspects of the educational programme in which the student participates, how the academic support materialises and the areas to work on with the Mentor.

## University goals

Our **Gate-to-Gate Model** builds on the results derived from the **Vocational Profile**, the student's interests and the A-Level subjects right from the very first day, providing the student with an **unparalleled strategy, support and enrichment**.

During the first months of **Year 12**, each student will join two **Co-Curricular Options** aimed at offering **tangible opportunities** to discover the implications, skills and concepts of the degrees they want to study. Finance, Coding in Python, Biomedicine, Psychology, IR & Politics, under a practical approach, these options build bridges with the student's A-Level subjects while working on their previous concepts and deepening their interests on a weekly basis. The co-curricular programme enhances our students' profile by allowing them to explain the different projects they carried out during university applications and **stand out over other candidates**.

In parallel, our **Mentoring Programme** gives each student tools to discover degrees and destinations, the implications of the application process and work on doubts that may arise.

After this first phase, halfway through the year, the students choose the Co-Curricular Options that best suits their university interests and then proceed to carry out a **project to put into practice skills and concepts** related to the **university degree** they will study. This could be a financial model from Amazon, a report on the political situation in Argentina, or a Python model that predicts whether a star will go supernova. This project is usually an **outstanding piece of the university application**, as it gives students a tangible experience on which to build their vocation and talk about their achievements. We call this **co-curricular enrichment**.

In **Year 13**, our Mentoring Programme helps provide **ongoing and individual support** with the **application process**, crystallising the university strategy and guiding the student throughout the process.

In parallel, we do one last round of co-curricular enrichment to **further develop the profile** of those students who have made up their minds and give those who have more doubts or have discovered new interests a final chance.

## Academic goals

At Virtus College, we pursue **academic excellence**, so that each student can achieve the best version of themselves and access the best possible university.

Beginning with the choice of A-Level subjects, the continuous contact with the teachers throughout the year allows us to work on the specific needs of each student in the different subjects, from basic gaps to the revision of a particular topic that was missed.

One of the goals of our Mentoring Programme is for the students to be well organised at an academic level, make the most of the technological resources we offer, plan their exams well and acquire effective study techniques. We combine group workshops with individual Mentor student meetings to draw up a unique strategy for each student to achieve the study goals, academic results and personal organisational standards.

The academic performance of the students throughout the year allows us to adapt the type of support they receive in the different phases. Each period of **internal examinations** and their subsequent evaluation generate lines of work between teachers, management and the Mentoring Programme, which matches the academic goals of each student.



## Personal Development goals

The **relationship we cultivate with each of our students** is very special. The number of students per year group (40) means that nobody goes unnoticed; quite the opposite – our students enjoy **excellent pastoral care and psycho-pedagogical support**, motivated by the involvement of the entire team with the Virtus College community.

The Vocational Profile that we carry out on each student allows us to detect the aspects of their personality they need to enhance and which areas have potential for improvement.

Examples of this are openness to new experiences, the development of leadership skills, the ability to reflect or creativity.

The **Virtus College community** offers multiple opportunities for the holistic development of every student. From positions of responsibility in the **Student Council**, to excellence in any of the areas of our extensive co-curriculum or the participation and organisation of Clubs & Societies; our **students' interests and abilities leave their mark on our community** while they find an ideal ecosystem to further enhance them.

Our Mentoring Programme, through its individualised support, puts the **wellbeing of the students and pastoral care at the heart of our priorities**. Our work with **STEER Education** allows us to have a proactive agenda for preventing and managing risks relating to the wellbeing of our students. All our teachers and staff are trained in Safeguarding, ensuring that the school is a safe space.

We hold **group workshops** throughout the year on a variety of subjects, such as **nutrition or stress management** before exams. In conjunction with our PSHE programme, which teaches personal finance management, basic laws or sexual education, our students receive an **array of tools for their personal development outside the classroom**.

## Benefits of our Gate-to-Gate Model

- 1** | Our **strategic outlook and continuous monitoring** allows us to anticipate rising needs, or react to recent academic results.
- 2** | The high **staff-to-student ratio** allows us to provide adequate individual support to all of our students, tackling these needs effectively.
- 3** | Our model puts specific **student needs and aims at the forefront of our priorities**, allowing our curriculum to adapt to meet these needs, and our Mentoring Programme to anticipate and tackle the different challenges standing in the way of the student's goals and objectives.





# Academic Results and University Destinations

We help students maximise their potential to gain access to the university they aspire to.

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## Destinations

This year's results continue to build on the positive trend of top international university destinations which we have seen over the last few years.

Pleasingly, **100%** of our students secured their **first or second destination choice** of which 60% are in the **Times 100 World ranking** with the remaining 40% featuring in The Times 200 World ranking.

The **UK** remains the destination of choice for most of our students. Over the last few years the most popular universities have been **Russell Group universities** such as UCL, University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, University of Bristol, University of Exeter and University of Warwick. We are delighted that our students are able to seamlessly access such high quality institutions and continue our **British heritage**.

Interestingly, recent years have also seen a growth of universities in the **Netherlands** as a destination of choice, as a reflection of post Brexit strategies. Prestigious destinations such as the **University of Groningen**, famous for their Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2016, and **Erasmus Rotterdam** which offers a genuine global and international outlook are both featuring regularly in our students' top choices.

Moreover, the additional emerging trend illustrates that some students choose to successfully pursue university courses within **Spain** with Engineering and Business degrees at IE University, amongst others, as their top choice.

This success reflects our approach to invest in each student as a unique individual; fostering and nurturing their personal and professional development in a holistic manner which both challenges and supports them in their aspirations and future success.

## Results for the class of 2022-2023

**100%**

First and second choice university

**60%**

Students achieved A\*-A grades

**25%**

Students achieved A\*-A Mathematics

**50%**

Students achieved A\*-A English

## Grade variance: class of 2022-2023

**12.9%**

Up two grades

**35.5%**

Up one grade

**45.2%**

Kept their grade

**6.4%**

Dropped one grade

## University destinations

### UK

- ✓ University College London (UCL)
- ✓ University of Bristol
- ✓ University of Edinburgh
- ✓ University of Exeter
- ✓ University of Manchester
- ✓ University of Reading
- ✓ University of St. Andrews
- ✓ University of Warwick

### USA

- ✓ Boston University
- ✓ Duke University
- ✓ St. Louis University

### Netherlands

- ✓ Erasmus University College (Rotterdam)
- ✓ University of Amsterdam
- ✓ University of Groningen

### Spain

- ✓ IE University
- ✓ Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- ✓ Universidad Pontificia de Comillas (ICADE/ICAI)
- ✓ Universidad San Pablo CEU

### Switzerland

- ✓ Glion Institute of Higher Education

### Belgium

- ✓ UIBS Antwerpen

### Italy

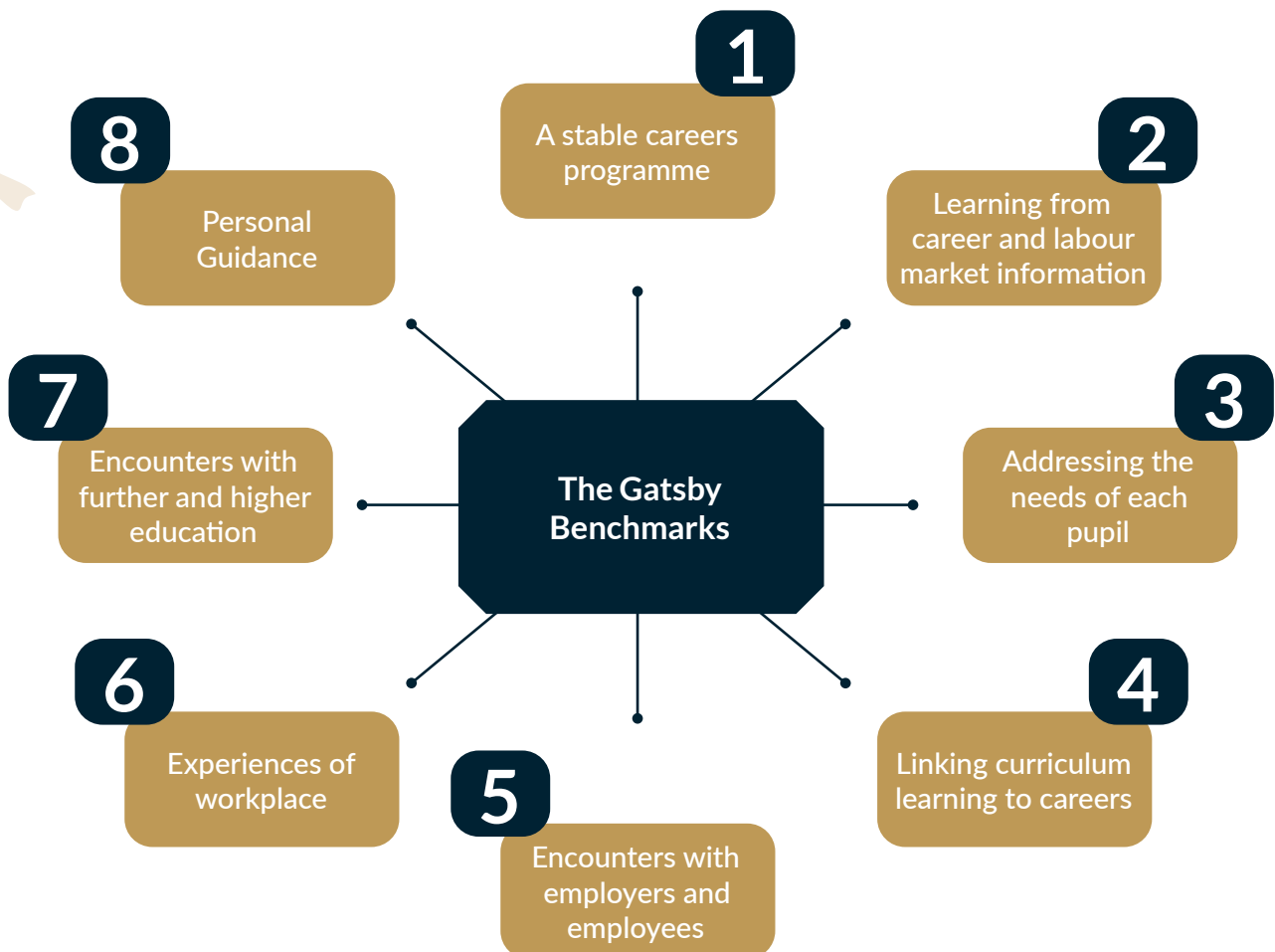
- ✓ Bocconi University

# Careers Education

An unrivalled preparation for university.

At Virtus College, we are committed to providing comprehensive support to our A-Level students as they navigate the **university application process**. Career advisors and mentors, as well as teachers, are pivotal in assisting our students and guiding them through the different stages of their process. Careers provision is therefore embedded in every aspect of Virtus College; within the curriculum, the mentoring programme, PSHE and as a separate initiative with speakers, workshops and trips aligned with relevant career interests of students. Students also receive **impartial careers advice** from our **team of Careers Advisors**.

Virtus College Careers provision is designed to meet the British standard of the **eight Gatsby benchmarks**.



## How it meets British Standards:

BM1 - a stable careers programme: see Careers map.	BM2 - Learning from labour market information: Regular assemblies will update students on various Post 18 options.	BM3 - Mentoring assesses each need and opportunities are provided for students to explore a wide range.	BM4- Careers in the Curriculum: each subject has a careers link, a lesson and destination information.
BM5 - Encounters with Employers/ employees: Visiting Speakers and trips meet this	BM6 - Experience of workplaces Work experience is encouraged	BM7 - Encounters with Higher education: Trip to IE, university fairs meet this,	BM8 - Personal guidance. Each student meets with a Careers Advisor.

## University Support Timeline

The university support process at Virtus College begins as soon as students start Virtus College; with **individual bespoke assessments**. We engage in trips to various universities and **university fairs** early on in Year 12 to enable students to commence their career research as early as possible.

The formal process of preparing students for the university application process has a **phased approach** and begins in January for Year 12 students with the Preparatory Phase, and concludes in April for Year 13 students with Spanish university applications.

Here is an example overview of the different processes and the associated timeline, in order to get perspective of the scope we implement.



# Curriculum Approach

The British Curriculum, highly valued by the best universities, allows students to specialise in three or four subjects.



## Curriculum Rationale

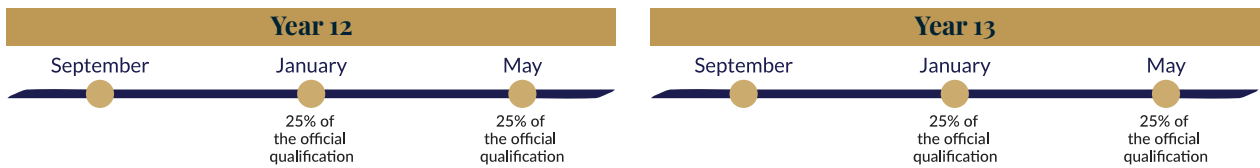
Our intent and rationale for our curriculum approach is to provide a truly **bespoke education**, tailored to each student's academic profile, aspirations and future career plans. At the heart of this, we want students to attain a range of rigorous British A-Level qualifications, and achieve well across these in order to successfully access the next steps in their international educational journey, as well as prepare them for life outside school.

We have adopted **International A-Levels (IALs)** which provide our students with opportunities to embrace a **modular examination strategy**; breaking down the A-Level examinations into several modules.

# Why the International A-Levels?

At Virtus College, we work with the **International A-Levels (IALs)**, a variant of the conventional A-Level in which students are officially examined in **January and May of Year 12 and Year 13**, dividing the examination content into **four series** instead of one. In addition, each subject is divided into **modules (separate components)** that allow work around the syllabus in a more structured way.

## Examination with the International A-Levels



## Examination with other programmes





The advantages of International A-Levels compared to conventional A-Levels or the International Baccalaureate:

- **Same international recognition by universities:** IALs are no exception, all universities in the world accept them and grant the same prestige.
- **Better results:** separating the exam content into four different series increases the probability of achieving better results.
- **Credible and endorsed predicted grades:** obtaining official grades in Year 12 means that the predicted grades are backed by an official grade, giving universities greater confidence in their offers.
- **Better management of pressure and stress:** as there are four different examination series, students face the same content but in small doses, thus reducing stress. In addition, they gain more experience sitting official exams and learning to deal with pressure.
- **Better control of expectations:** regular exams are the “acid test” for meeting expectations. Students are more efficiently tracked in four separate exam series.
- **Allows for second chances:** as the International A-Levels subjects are organised into separate modules, students who want to improve their grades can retake a particular module more than once.

# Our teaching pedagogy

Teaching at Virtus College is outstanding.



At Virtus College, our lessons are designed based on the **ACE pedagogy**. Teachers incorporate elements of Assessment, Challenge and Engagement in their lessons.

These are adapted to the various profiles of the students so that each student's needs are met. This pedagogical strategy enables our teachers to **stretch and challenge every student**, while supporting their progress simultaneously with scaffolding. Differentiation activities are set both within the lessons and beyond the classroom. This can take the form of independent research tasks, flipped learning, higher level materials which stimulate critical thinking and analysis.

Students who struggle with particular topics or skills are offered **supporting clinics** in a small, tailored setting with teachers who know them well and this design helps students meet their potential. Furthermore, we organise essay writing, **exam technique and reading comprehension workshops**, as well as weekly tests in some subjects for students who need to be more consistent with their revision. **Our students benefit from tailor-made support to achieve their academic goals.**

Virtus College students study **four** A-Levels which ensures that they access both depth and breadth of knowledge and skills. In addition, our co-curriculum is designed to extend their learning beyond the classroom, yet complement their educational roadmap.



# Subject offer

Each Virtus College student specialises in **4 International A-Level subjects** based on the university goals and advised by the staff and the conclusions drawn from their bespoke Educational Profile.

## Virtus College A-Level subjects

- ✓ Biology
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Chemistry
- ✓ Economics
- ✓ English Language
- ✓ English Literature
- ✓ French
- ✓ Further Maths
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Maths
- ✓ Media
- ✓ Physics
- ✓ Psychology
- ✓ Spanish

## Beyond the Classroom

At Virtus College we nurture students to be **intellectually curious and ambitious**. Much of the personal and professional development takes place outside the classroom, as well as within it.

Outside the classroom, there are a host of possibilities to stretch and challenge the more able students. The **EPQ** is a strong addition to their profile, as is the **Certificate in Financial Studies** validated by **London Institute of Banking**. The Co-Curricular Maths Option is a natural extension for Mathematics and Science students. National and International essay based competitions such as the **Olympiad** provide ample challenge for very able students.

Furthermore, **IELTS** offers another layer of qualifications to students and meets the **criteria of many international universities**. At Virtus College, the learning never stops.



# SEND Provision

Upon admission to the school (in the case of existing awareness of SEND needs), or upon discovery of a special educational need or disability, there will be a **comprehensive assessment of the student's strengths, weaknesses, and learning styles**.

This will involve gathering information from teachers, parents, and any relevant professionals involved in the student's education. Our **SENCo** liaises with both parents and **educational psychologists** in order to best understand the **needs of each student**. This close communication puts the student in the centre of our provision and we adapt accordingly in order to ensure they have the best chance of success.

## PSHE

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.

### What is PSHE?

An acronym for Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, it is a compulsory subject which every student at Virtus College is taught.

It is aligned with the **UK curriculum** as recommended by the PSHE association and Department of Education (DfE). It aims to prepare our students for **life beyond Sixth Form** and to equip them with the knowledge, tools and skills needed to successfully navigate adolescent life.

**The aims of our PSHE programme are:**

- To help our students acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills needed for their **next steps beyond** Virtus College.
- To help our students understand the **decisions and skills** needed to live **happy, safe** and **healthy** lives.
- To help students develop key **transferable skills** such as **self-management, critical thinking, communication, resilience**.
- To foster students **global social responsibility** and recognise that they are citizens of the world, with the responsibility that entails.
- To educate our students about the **British values** of tolerance, acceptance and democratic rights.
- To promote our school's values of **discipline, resilience, integrity, vision** and **enthusiasm**.

# Co-Curriculum Programme

## Co-Curriculum rationale

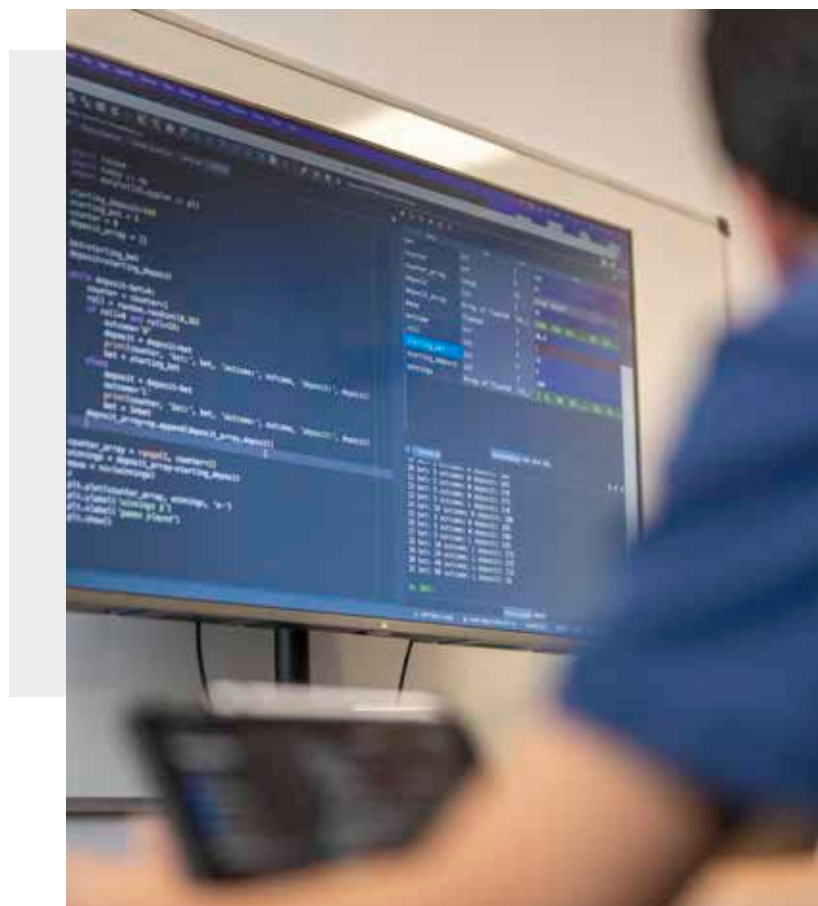
The Future Begins Here.

The Co-Curriculum Programme is one of our tools used to equip our students with competencies related to their degree of choice and the skills that enable them to face the challenges of the 21st century. Universities increasingly look for students with **well-rounded profiles** to secure a place on their courses.

Our co-curriculum offer therefore comprises a wide range of options, aligned with **career pathways**, in order to **strengthen students' university application**. The co-curriculum is the cornerstone for equipping our students with transversal skills that allow them to face the challenges of the 21st century, such as critical thinking, intellectual curiosity and public speaking. It also offers a global outlook and a broader knowledge of their academic and professional interests.

At Virtus College, the Co-Curriculum Programme offer revolves around the Gate-to-Gate Model: **from the gate of the school to the gate of the university**. It is the main pillar of our curriculum in providing the necessary **enrichment** that yields competitive profiles for universities. For example, some co-curricular options involve formal qualifications which enable students to add academic strands to their CV, while others help them develop their research skills, communication skills and confidence in public speaking.

*"The Co-Curriculum Programme is the cornerstone for equipping our students with transversal skills that allow them to face the challenges of the 21st-century".*



# Co-Curriculum Options

## Choose your path.

Our Co-Curricular options are a fundamental component of our **pre-university approach**. These options cater to the specific interests and aspirations of our students, allowing them to delve deeper into academic fields related to their university aspirations and as such strengthen their applications.

They are designed with curriculum pathways in mind. Whether students are interested in **Humanities & Media Studies, Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship, Engineering, Maths & Physics, or Biomedical Sciences**, there's an option tailored to these pathways.



## Humanities & Media Studies



### Politics & IR

Get to know the world that surrounds us through politics, economics and international relations.



### Journalism

Develop journalistic skills by developing the school's newspaper.



### Digital Media

Explore the communication channels that young people use today to connect with audiences.



## Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship



### Young Enterprise

Develop entrepreneurial skills through the creation of a real business.



### Finance

Bring students closer to the world of personal finance and investment.



## Engineering, Maths & Physics



### Coding in Python

An introduction to the world of programming in Python.



### Mathematics

Develop advanced mathematical skills to complement the A-Level mathematics curriculum.



## Biomedical Sciences



### Psychology

An in-depth exploration of the field of psychology.



### Medicine

An in-depth exploration of the disciplines in the medical profession.

### By invitation only:

- Crest Award (Science)
- Certificate in Financial Studies validated by London Institute of Banking
- EPQ in Cybersecurity



### Our Programme is characterised by:

- **Offering the best resources:** many Co - Curricular options will make use of online resources published and licensed by recognised British institutions which is only possible through our unique partnership with them.
- **Being Centred around Competencies:** Our Co-Curricular options take a hands-on approach, focusing on the development of skills directly relevant to many preferred university degrees. Through the completion of projects and assignments, students gain valuable practical experience, enhancing their awareness of the reality and opportunities in various fields of interest.
- **Providing A Window to Reality:** Participating in Co-Curricular options not only strengthens university applications but also provides insights into the labour market and different career paths. By engaging with various sectors and industries, students will better understand the needs of society and gain a broader perspective on the world around them which is imperative in order to prepare for success beyond the walls of Virtus College.

# Stage Space

The development of skills such as **critical thinking, communication skills, performance under pressure or intellectual curiosity** are **highly demanded** in the working world and essential in many spheres inside and outside of it. The **Stage Space**, a programme in which all students participate, seeks through its activities the development of these skills while presenting stimulating topics and global problems to the student.

The weekly Stage Space programme **combines informative sessions with debates in small groups** in which the active participation of the students prevails. Our approach in this area is key to generating a sense of community and working on personal development.

We take advantage of the topics that arise around these activities to inculcate in our students the value of rigorous research, intellectual curiosity and an in-depth view of the challenges of society and the big questions for humanity.



## Debating

All of the students are expected to participate in the Debating programme, in order to enhance their **oracy** and public speaking skills, as well as gaining a deeper understanding of the global society we live in and the challenges the world faces in the current political and economic climate.



## Drama

Through performing arts and theatre, we help our students develop their verbal and non-verbal communication, their imagination and **creativity**, as well as their ability to work as a team.



# Mentoring

## Mentoring Rationale

### Adapting to every student's needs.

At Virtus College, our Mentoring Programme is at the heart of our commitment to providing a truly **personalised education for every student**. We understand that academic, personal, and career needs are unique to each individual, and our Mentoring Programme is designed to recognise and support these needs in a holistic and tailored manner.

The Mentoring Programme is a core component of our commitment to providing **holistic and individualised** support to our students, aligning with the objectives outlined in the **Roadmap** we establish for every one of them.

### Complete, Personalised Support

At the beginning of Year 12, every student is paired with a dedicated mentor. Working in close coordination with the school and teaching staff, these mentors play a crucial role in translating the **student's aspirations** into actionable and **achievable targets**. We recognize that no two students are alike, and as such, our Mentoring Programme is **flexible** and **adaptable**. It allows us to tailor strategies and dynamics to each student's unique needs, throughout their two-year A-Level journey.

Our Mentoring Programme is designed to address each student's **academic, university, and personal goals**, ensuring that they stay on track as per their individual Roadmap. The close relationship fostered during the weekly meetings between mentors and students is instrumental in achieving this.



# Mentoring overview

## Weekly Mentoring Meetings

The cornerstone of our Mentoring Programme is the **weekly one-on-one meetings** between mentors and their assigned students. During these 30-minute sessions, mentors work closely with students to address their unique objectives, needs, and concerns. These meetings serve as a dedicated space for students to discuss **academic progress, personal development, and career aspirations**.

## Tailored Activities for Year 12 & Year 13 Students

Our Mentoring Programme is designed to meet the specific needs of both Year 12 and Year 13 students. The activities and discussions are tailored to the academic and personal development stage of each student, ensuring that they receive guidance relevant to their current year.





# Aims of the Mentoring Programme

The Mentoring Programme at Virtus College is multifaceted and aims to achieve several key objectives:

- **Improving Personal Organization:** Mentors work with students to enhance their organisational skills, which includes effectively managing homework, creating study plans for exams, setting milestones, and using technological tools available through iPads for efficient organisation of documents and notes.
- **Enhancing Study Techniques:** Mentors provide guidance on effective study techniques, note-taking methods, and the creation of supporting materials for subject revision. They also introduce active learning strategies to help students study efficiently for A-level exams.
- **Support for University Applications:** Our mentors play a crucial role in assisting students with their university applications. Through close collaboration with our University Admissions team, specialised in the application process and university destinations, our students receive the dedicated support needed to enhance their chances of gaining admission to prestigious universities.
- **Academic Performance and Educational Solutions:** Depending on students' results in internal and official exams, mentors employ various strategies to improve academic performance. This may include setting weekly cycle tests, writing workshops, or algebra workshops, ensuring that every student's educational needs are met throughout the year.
- **Wellbeing and Personal Development:** At Virtus College, we prioritise the psychological, emotional, and physical wellbeing of our students. Our mentors are equipped with psycho-pedagogical training to address these aspects and provide support when needed. They also contribute to the proposal and follow-up of Sixth Form Community activities, helping students to engage in personal development opportunities.
- **Technological Competencies:** Our Mentoring Programme extends to fostering the appropriate use of iPads and educational tools, both within the classroom and beyond. Mentors guide students in harnessing the full potential of these technological resources for their academic and personal growth.

Our Mentoring Programme is a **dynamic and personalised support system** that ensures each student receives the guidance and resources they need to succeed academically and grow personally. Through this programme, we empower our students to excel in their A-Level examinations, make informed decisions about their future, and develop the skills and competencies necessary to thrive in today's world.

# 04

**A thriving  
Sixth Form  
community**

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# Student Leadership

**Leadership** and positions which **help develop students' global social responsibility** are plentiful within the Virtus College Community. These roles represent a unique opportunity to grant more responsibility and commitment to our students at this critical stage in their personal and professional development.

For some students, development in this area is pivotal to achieving personal goals. The **leap in maturity** we observe in such students is a direct consequence of the trust we collectively place in them. These positions allow students to shape their experience at Virtus College based on their interests and passions. Under the concept of **“responsible freedom”**, they enjoy the independence of action within the limits of making good use of the responsibility entrusted to them. They can grow to better understand their own strengths and weaknesses and also help shape others' development through their contribution and leadership.

Not only does it benefit their **personal development**, their professional and academic development also benefits as they are able to demonstrate the necessary skills and maturity expected and valued by many universities.

*“This approach is ideal at an age in which students look for values and references to find their place and voice in society. At Virtus College they find a setting with almost unlimited opportunities to develop their talents.”*

Key positions of leadership are summarised below.

**Head Boy and Head Girl:** Ambassadors and role models for the student body.

- Sports, Clubs and Societies Prefect: Coordinate co-curricular activities.
- Charity and Volunteering Prefect: Organise charitable initiatives.
- School Marketing Prefect: Manage marketing and branding efforts.
- Pastoral Prefect: Provide wellbeing and emotional support.
- Student Council Chair: Lead the Student Council.
- Student Council Co-Chair/Secretary: Support council operations.
- House Captain: Foster a sense of belonging within the house system.
- Virtus College Newspaper Editor: Overseeing and liaising the Student Council contributions to the Virtus College Herald.

## The Student Council

The **mission** of the Student Council is to **improve and promote educational, supportive and common interest activities** for the student body. It is a crucial part of our leadership offer at Virtus College since it is wholly student led.

Our Student Council plays a vital role within the school's organisation since they speak for their year groups, **organise events**, lead in the **community service projects** and be an example for the rest of the classmates. Among their other responsibilities is also **organising** and promoting **Student Clubs and Societies**.

This involves considering students' and teachers' interests, initiative viability, and organising school events to strengthen students' organisational, teamwork, resilience, and leadership skills.



# Charity and Community Service

The charity work at Virtus College, through its volunteering and **annual collaboration with various NGOs**, is the foundation in transmitting values such as **tolerance, integrity and teamwork** while cultivating a global social responsibility amongst our student body who are the next generation of global citizens.

We actively seek out, promote and expect our students to make their community a better place through **performing tangible actions in the environment that surrounds us**. Each student is therefore **expected to volunteer 10 hours per academic year** in order to positively contribute to our community and wider society.

The importance of charity at Virtus College is best illustrated through the key role of **Charity prefect** who coordinates aspects of promoting volunteering.

A range of volunteering options are promoted centrally, and many align with students interests and career aspirations.

**Ecoalf:** a river cleaning initiative that promotes environmental awareness.

**Avanza ONG:** volunteer services for people at risk of exclusion

**One Day Yes:** helping in funding Twashukuru School for young children in Kenya.

**Siempre Madres:** supporting mothers without resources by providing them with necessities for themselves and their children.



# Student Clubs & Societies

The Clubs & Societies, planned and run by the students, is a weekly space for personal development, recreation and exploration.

**Student led** and **coordinated** by our **Clubs and Societies** prefect, it is a space for exploring and developing new interests.

Our educational programme, through its links with current affairs and 21st-century skills, inspires our students to develop new interests. The Student clubs and societies complement our educational provision.

This collection of Clubs and Societies is **constantly evolving**. While students suggest new areas of interest, teachers also bring their personal interests and hobbies into the equation. The leadership provided by the **student leaders** in these Clubs provides a brilliant opportunity for development in this field via their work in the **Virtus College community**.

## Examples of current Clubs and Societies



### Chess Club

A space for students to challenge and learn from each other and develop skills like problem solving, critical and strategic thinking, independence growth mindset.



### Criminology Club

Students explore cases of famous criminals and aim to reach a better understanding of the complexities of the human mind. This also serves as an extension of Psychology as an A-Level subject where critical thinking is further developed.



### Yoga Club

student led, this club infuses calm with movement and helps students switch off and reach a state of peace while improving their physical fitness. Helps to develop focus, resilience and a growth mindse.



### Padel Club

Popular among students, this club offers students a chance to switch off, burn some steam and sharpen their focus by challenging one another in a physically demanding activity where teamwork, communication and resilience are further developed.

# Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

## Pastoral Rationale

Student wellbeing, our priority.

At Virtus College, the **wellbeing** of our students is our top **priority**.

Ensuring small class sizes with **average 5 students per class** and two 40-student year groups allows us to meet, support and guide our students individually so that they reach their full potential. We nurture a warm, supportive and friendly community where relationships are built for life.

Having dedicated **pastoral staff** and **mentoring teams** facilitates regular conversation between staff and students and makes sure students' emotional needs are met.

Furthermore, tracking our students on a personal and academic basis is one of our pillars. Our team of teachers, mentors and **psycho-pedagogical counsellors** strive to create a climate in which daily effort, enthusiasm and self-confidence are the perspectives from which students face their challenges.





## Pastoral Overview

### Wide-ranging and proactive Pastoral Care and Wellbeing.

Our students have a transversal support network across the entire school with its roots in the **Mentoring Programme where mentors** establish a working relationship with their students from the first day at Virtus College. Through their weekly individual meetings, we create a space of trust during which more tailored support is given.

The cross-linked participation of all teachers in the different branches of the educational programme means that students forge links with all the teaching staff who, as a group, are involved in the collective wellbeing of every student.

We also have a distinct **pastoral team** who meets regularly with teachers, mentors and leadership team to discuss students **wellbeing**.

Our **PSHE programme** covers areas related to the wellbeing of the student and their relationship with the environment. It is an element of risk prevention integrated into our educational programme. There is ongoing support in areas such as **nutrition**, interpersonal relationships and **mental health**. Support is also provided to families.

We work with **STEER Education**, an internationally recognised platform used as a proactive risk management tool to help students. Our psycho-pedagogical team channels the platform's results to anticipate, work on and monitor these risks on time.

These elements are part of a complete safeguarding strategy from which an unequivocal commitment of the Virtus College staff to the protection and wellbeing of students is derived. The support network generated in our Virtus College Community allows for effective communication between all parties and an adequate channelling of support resources to guarantee the welfare of our students.



# Houses

A proud British educational tradition.

Following a proud British educational tradition, at Virtus College we have established four distinct houses which we assign to each student: **Attenborough, Austen, Hawking** and **Seacole**. Year 12 and Year 13 students are grouped together in these houses, allowing them to connect with peers from various year groups and subject areas. This encourages a sense of community and diversity within our student body, enriching their overall educational experience and also preparing them for later stages in life when they will be interacting and collaborating with individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Furthermore, our **House System** promotes healthy competition among students. They engage in **inter-house competitions** encompassing a range of activities, including drama and sports. These events not only highlight our students' talents but also teach them the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. We also maintain a house **point system** that rewards positive contributions and accomplishments to encourage each student to actively participate in the creation of a dynamic school experience.



# Virtus College Community

At Virtus College, the students play the leading role.

## A Thriving #SixthFormCommunity

The leading role played by each student within the community, derived from our **small-size year groups** and the close relationships we nurture, is the key ingredient for their physical, emotional and psychological development. Here, everyone can be themselves.

Here, **everyone is heard**. Here, we cultivate the individuality and independence of our students and the acquisition of responsibilities and collaboration, creating a pre-university environment in which everyone contributes.

Thanks to our students, Virtus College is a thriving, **vibrant community**, full of life, laughter, and opportunities. From student leadership to student clubs, charity work, sports and volunteering - there is something for everyone.

The **#SixthFormCommunity** that they themselves create every day through their achievements, progress and collaborations fills us with pride.



# Sports

At Virtus College we recognise the contribution of an active lifestyle for a healthy lifestyle. In line with the guidelines in the United Kingdom for overall health and wellbeing and the official NHS five recommendations, sports form a key part of the wider curriculum offered.

Students have a **wide range of sporting options** and spend two hours fortnightly engaged with their preferred option. This helps them stay fit, improve their mental and physical fitness and develop transferable skills such as team work, communication and resilience.



**Our students can choose from among the following sports:**



Basketball



Football



Volleyball



Tennis



Padel

# Uniform

The sense of community and belonging in Virtus College must be a source of pride.

## In class with class

The Virtus College uniform is an essential **extension of our identity as a Sixth Form College**, and since we have older students, we want it to convey elegance as well as modernity. Our uniform allows students to be comfortable but at the same time to be dressed appropriately and in accordance with the values of our school.

All uniform items are mandatory except for shoes, which can be chosen by the students as long as the colours are dark and respect a smart-casual style. The school will provide guidance regarding the start and end of the summer and winter uniforms, depending on the seasonal weather conditions.

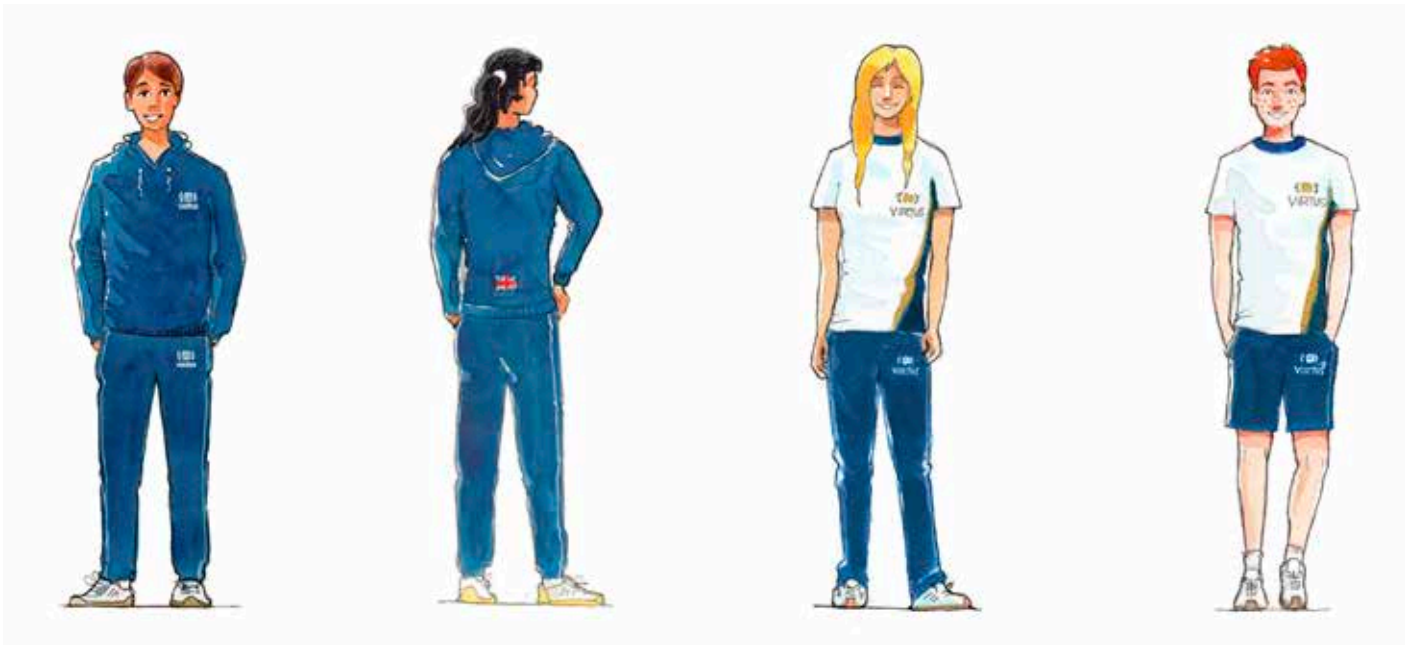
On P.E days students must bring their sports uniform in a separate bag and this must include the appropriate trainers for the sports activity taking place. The P.E uniform must be worn exclusively during the designated time and students are expected to shower and change back to their daily uniform before returning to classes.

Students are **expected to wear the uniform correctly at all times** throughout the year, both inside the school and wherever they are representing it.

## School Uniform



## Physical Education (PE) Uniform



### Additional school uniform garments

- Navy blue socks.
- Navy blue or black smart shoes.
- Dark coats.
- White socks or trainers are not permitted.
- Accessories such as caps and bracelets, rings and piercings are not permitted. Earrings are only permitted for girls provided that they are discreet.
- It is forbidden to wear any personal garment that impedes the visual identity of the School.
- Make-up should be discreet.
- All students are required to manage their personal hygiene.

### Additional sports uniform garments

- White socks.
- White trainers.



# Lunch Menu

Fresh food prepared on a daily basis and using only 100% certified organic ingredients.

Lunch in Virtus College is served daily for all students, along with fresh fruit and yoghurt every morning during the first break. We count on one of the **best catering companies in Madrid** to provide our lunch, with fresh food being prepared on a daily basis and using only 100% certified organic ingredients. In this manner, we guarantee that all the food our students enjoy is free of chemical products (pesticides, preservatives, stabilisers, colourants etc), added sugars and saturated fats. Food is never fried and lactose, flours and eggs are never present, hence making lunch healthier and easy to digest. On top of that, **we adjust menus according to any kind of intolerances** or allergies a student may have.

We rely on an original and different catering that shares our profound commitment to health and a well-balanced diet, without compromising on taste. Furthermore, thanks to the use of organically sourced ingredients and the recyclable materials used, we contribute to the sustainability of our planet.







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